

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae." VING.

VOL. III.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1821.

NUM. 20.

AGRICULTURE.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

REMARKS ON A CALF,

ALDERNEY CATTLE, &c.

Weight did not, we trust, determine the excellence of the Cattle exhibited at the Fair—their properties, points, and dispositions governed, we should hope, the opinions of the gentlemen, whose impartiality and good judgment were manifested by their awards.

The Alderney Calf is traced with certainty to the Island which gives his name—but the pedigree of his family has not been sufficiently shown, to remove our belief, that they possess blood which is not "Alderney." That fine farm stock may be shipped from the Islands in the British Channel—that well formed Norman Cattle, have been frequently so exported, is well known—that large calves may be sometimes had of various breeds of small cattle, from fashionable Devons to hardy Kyloes, no man acquainted with the subject will deny—that gold and meal, with skill and care, have produced a very fat and heavy calf called Alderney, can be no longer questioned, but that they have given points, which a Breeder requires, or a Grazier seeks, has not to our satisfaction been made apparent.

Your well informed correspondent states, "In the English books the Alderney Cattle are characterised, generally as rather too delicate to be propagated there with advantage, to any great extent." But, if they should acquire with us the size and form, (in which qualities they seem in England to be inferior to other breeds,) and preserve the richness of the milk, they will certainly prove a very valuable race. "That they evince this disposition to improve, will, I think, appear from the descendants of Mr. Creighton's importation"—and he adds, "the finest Cross of the Alderney with us as yet, is that with the Bakewell and Holland Cows, of the breed at Hampton."

This we cannot doubt, as the finest Cattle found in England are mixed with Lincoln, Holstein and Norman blood.

But if the offspring of a fine race of animals, which for ten years and more have had all the advantages of a fertile land, ample keep, great energy and unusual skill in every branch of a farmer's art, should show fine points with "the size and form" (for the want of which in England, "Alderney's are characterised") he would not, I trust, contend, that their good shape, temper, size, or hardy disposition, should be referred to the breed, which Cully describes "as too delicate and tender ever to be much attended to by British farmers"—which Lawrence condemns as "unthrifty, thin, small, hard, irregularly, often very awkwardly shaped"

"ed"—which Dickson quotes, as fit but for nobility and the rich—which we have always found restive, and of savage temper—and which no writer or farmer, whom we have seen or of whom we have heard has proposed for the general purposes of his country. If any gentleman, or epicure would regale his palate without regard to cost, or delight his eye with the exquisite colour of his butter, or should "fancy" small Cows to be tied to stakes, in Cobbett's fashion, or fed with slop, and kitchen trash, in the manner of a distinguished Philadelphia farmer, let him have a Dairy of Brittanys, or Alderney Cows, and an Aviary of Ortolans and Reed-birds—but if he really intend to promote the purposes of his country, by increasing the comforts of the most important, and numerous classes of the community, it might be well to regard the value of his dry Cows, the size of his bullocks, the gentleness of his Oxen and the balance of his farm accounts.

But we are told "the Alderney Cattle seem to be developing a peculiar fitness for this climate," although the English books have characterised them as too delicate for England. Is it that heat is less violent, change less frequent, our cold less severe; or is it that Maryland Meadows are more verdant, our supplies more abundant, our servants more faithful, or their masters more vigilant than those of England? That there may be some "peculiar fitness for our climate," in this peculiar family of Cattle, of which English writers, and English farmers, and ourselves had been ignorant, we should be disposed to believe, as this heavy, fat calf the produce of an imported Bull, and an imported Cow, has in the first generation, evinced this singular "disposition to improve." May it not be feared then, that the extreme susceptibility of his family will expose them to a retrograde movement, and the next generation to step back to the "unthrifty, thin, small, hard irregularly formed" savage legitimate Alderney race, which the English books have characterised as "of inferior size, and form too tender ever to be much attended to by farmers"—such as a scientific agriculturist of Philadelphia County exhibits in their utmost purity. It must be acknowledged that fashion may give celebrity to a race of calves, just as we have seen it give distinction to other animals—but after all, the estimation in which they are held by those, whose habits give them means of knowledge, whose necessities impose caution in their purchases is the fair criterion of intrinsic worth.

CURWEN.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, July 28th, 1821.

NOTE.—The last Farmer states that Lady O. took a prize of 30 guineas for her Bull Calf. The English Board, like the Maryland, and every other Agricultural Board, offer premiums

to improve the objects for which they are destined. Her Ladyship presented the best Alderney Calf, and took the prize, which was small for England. Is it therefore to be inferred, that a bad Calf is better than a good one, because bad was the best—and must we at a distance believe that in Maryland an Ass is thought better than a horse, or that Maryland Horses, are not better than Asses, because an Ass was honoured with a large Silver Cup at the late Fair? Dickson has said, and we have always thought, that Alderneys are "peculiarly fitted" to Ladies and Lords, but unhappily Alderneys appear to think that we are not fitted for them, since Mr. Haines' imported Alderney Bull killed a man at Wilkesbarre, and was shot. Captain Thompson's imported Bull, showed the same inclination, and was condemned to the yoke. Mr. G. Howard's imported Bull for the like disposition is shut up for life, and the "fat, heavy Calf," worthy of his race, broke from his fastening, and with confusion dispersed the ignoble Plebeians who were applauding his size. It was stated "the finest cross of the Alderney with us as yet is that at Hampton"—yet the experienced and liberal proprietor of that estate has paid ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for the use of Bergami for one month, and two gentlemen who were Judges at the fair, have engaged him at ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS each for a month after.

We have subjoined some extracts from English authors, in regard to the different breeds which have attracted most attention in America.

"The Cattle of the Islands on the French Coast, are I believe, collectively known by the name of Alderney—these are a variety of, and smaller than the Norman, light red, &c. short, wild horned, deer necked, with a general resemblance to that animal—thin, hard and small boned, irregularly often very awkwardly shaped. They are among the best milkers in the world, as to quality, and in that respect, are either before, or immediately next to the Longhorns; but weight of butter for inches they are far superior to all."

"The celebrated Red Cattle of Devonshire, are thus described in the Annals of Agriculture, No. 172, by Lord Somerville, an exquisite judge, and a native of the County in which they are bred."

"Beginning with the shape of the Bull, the horn is found neither drooping too low, nor rising too high, not too thick or goary at the root, the eye clear, bright and prominent, forehead flat, indented and small, cheeks small, muzzle fine, the nose of a clear yellow, if possible, like the horn or mottled, &c.—generally speaking the Bulls relatively to Oxen are not of large size, and it should be observed, respecting size in general, that nature operating in food and

climate, is imperious, and will produce Oxen proportioned to those two circumstances in due course of time, whatever may have been originally the size of the Bulls and Cows.

The neatness of form, and energy, and vigour in labour, greatly, if not wholly in this breed, arose in breeding by heifers; and year old, and two year old Bulls.

I have already made (continues Mr. Lawrence) a copious extract from this admirable memoir, written so much *con amore* by the noble and patriotic West Countryman. In my own opinion, the purest Devons frequently run to too great length of leg, crooked behind, or sickle hammed, and of insufficient general substance. They are also, I think, more apt to be in-kneed than any other reputed race. These cattle have generally, for a century past, commanded the best price at Smithfield; but of late years, the buyers there have shrewdly remarked, that although blood and fine form are very pleasing to the eye of the gentleman breeder, yet substance and weight are, and ever must be the grand objects at market. The Devons are the speediest working Oxen in England, and will trot well in harness; in point of strength, they stand in the fourth or fifth class. As milkers, they are so far inferior to both the Long and Short-horns, namely, both in quantity and quality of milk, that they are certainly no objects for the regular dairy, however pleasing and convenient they may be in the private family way. "The Northern Short-horns, including the Teeswater, Lincoln and Holderness, or Yorkshire and Tweedside Short-horns—the extreme coarseness, and size of the Northern Short-horns, led to the introduction of Norman, or Alderney Bulls, at some period of the eighteenth century. This improvement commenced in Holderness, Yorkshire." Never was there a more fortunate cross. In no other country does exist so excellent a breed of Cattle, including all the useful properties, in one, perhaps the most important respect, great milking, they are superior and even without rivals. Their Beef is finer than that of the old Short-horned breed, and they fatten much earlier and quicker, carrying still a vast depth of natural flesh, and tallowing within in the first degree. They have both speed, and strength enough for labour, and their shoulders, are well formed, and well posited for draught. Being beautifully variegated in colour, spotted, &c.—From their superior quality of milk, they rival the best Long-horns in the cheese and butter dairies; and for suckling, are unrivalled. It may be presumed, they are at least equal to the Herefords, in the stall, at all points—and there seems but one respect in which they are, in any considerable degree, inferior to any breed which can be named, which is fineness of flesh; in that particular it is obvious, they can never equal certain other breeds, without the entire overthrow of their Dutch basis, by a repetition of the Norman, or some similar cross, which would go to destroy the present superior breed."

[Lawrence on Cattle.

The Cattle bred in Durham, have for a great number of years been of the Short-horned kind—the best variety of which, having been

long found on both sides of the River Tees, have for a great many years been known by the appellation of the Teeswater Breed.

"An attempt to improve them, (which I suspect was more with regard to size, than any other quality) was made by Mr. Michael Dobinson of the Isle, near Sedgfield, who brought a Bull out of Holland, that is said to have improved the breed."

"A few years after, some other adventurers brought home a complete lyery animal, which did a great deal of mischief—but there were some intelligent breeders that steered clear of this evil—and from them the pure Teeswater breed has descended to the present time, in which were united the properties of feeding to great weights, and being great milkers."

"It has been already stated, that the Short-horned Cattle were great milkers—this cannot be said of the variety which has such an aptitude to fatten, for though they give a great quantity for some time after calving, they decline considerably afterwards—but the variety of great milkers is yet to be found wherever the Dairy is the chief object, and this variety is as carefully preserved, and pursued, as the Graziers do that of the fatting tribe. It is very common for Cows of this breed, in the beginning of summer, to give thirty quarts a day, and there are particular instances of more."

[Bailey's Survey of Durham.

"The Holderness or Short-horned Cattle which are remarkable for their large size, and abundant supply of milk, prevail universally throughout the East Riding. This breed appears to be similar to that of the North Western parts of Germany."

"Many Bulls have latterly been purchased and hired into the East Riding at high prices from the neighbourhood of Darlington, in the County of Durham, where a much superior breed of Short-horns are found, possessing all the perfections, and qualities which are wanting in the Holderness breed."

"The milk is also rich in quality as there are instances of 16 pounds of butter (18 ounces to the pound) being produced by one Cow for several weeks after calving." (18 lbs. American weight.

[Strickland's Survey of the East Riding of Yorkshire.]

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I ask the favour of you to preserve in the American Farmer, the following

MEMORIAL

OF A

CONVENTION OF DELEGATES

Representing the Merchants and others interested in Commerce, Assembled at Philadelphia,

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(Concluded from page 150, No. 19.)

In whatever way we view this subject, and we have endeavoured to bestow on it all the consideration which its great importance so justly merits, we cannot avoid anticipating from the success of the tariff project, irreparable injury, not only to agriculture and commerce, but to many of the mechanic trades immediately connected with, and dependent upon, these

two great sources of the wealth and physical power of this nation. Agriculture, already bereft of half her ability to pay taxes, by a combination of circumstances, among which our protecting duty system holds a prominent station, is now called upon to pay a still further tax of some ten, twenty, or thirty per centum upon almost all her necessary purchases, at a time too, when the existing duties have been more than doubled in value to those who receive the benefit of them, by the appreciation of money and the depreciation of domestic provisions of every kind; a depreciation, moreover, so continued and portentous, as to threaten to terminate even the culture of several of those products which heretofore have most contributed both to our emolument and to our comforts.—What is to be the consequence? Why a rapid and appalling retrogradation throughout the community, compelling us not only to relinquish most of those embellishments of civilized life, which polish and adorn the social structure, but also to bid adieu to all the fond hopes which solace the parent and animate the patriot in regard to the progress of education, the improvement of morals and the general diffusion of national happiness. Commerce, curtailed in all her branches by the same sinister combination of events, is required still further to furl her sails, or to spread them only to the breezes of our bays, our rivers, and our seaboard. Or, if not deterred by the numerous difficulties which present themselves to her customary pursuits, she still essays to spread her canvass over the bosom of those distant seas from navigating which she has heretofore hoped to derive a fair and honorable reward for her toils, she is told that a large portion of her now scanty profits must go to foster a new interest in our community, which it has been found upon trial cannot be gotten up without levying still heavier contributions both on agriculture and commerce. The numerous citizens too, whose reliance for comfortable support has hitherto been placed upon the prosperity of agricultural and commercial occupations, must now be transferred to some other less precarious dependence, or their present employments exchanged for hopeless inaction. And what is the inestimable boon held out to us, as a compensation for all these privations? Why, truly, an adequate home market for all our domestic products! That this idea is altogether fallacious, we trust can be made manifest by a very few remarks. The manufacturing establishments, which it is said will grow out of the tariff, are to be peopled from the population already within the country, or to be supplied by foreign importations. If in the first mode, then it is obvious, that unless we suppose the intended recruits can live in their present scattered condition, without food altogether, they will not, when embodied, consume so much more additional provision as to compensate for the great diminution of exports which the new tariff must necessarily occasion. It is only then by the importation of that class of foreigners, the least desirable part, in general, of foreign population, that the number of manufacturing consumers, and consequently the quantum of consumption, can be materially augmented. This is unquestionably true as to provisions. But it will be said, our raw mate-

rials will then find so much more extensive a market than they have at present, as amply to remunerate us for all additional costs. If it were true that we had no home market at all for our agricultural productions, it might become a question with some, whether it would not be worth while to incur a considerable national expense with a view to create one, provided it was probable that the domestic sale for our surplus produce would then be so much greater than the foreign sale extinguished by this creation, as to reimburse those at whose cost it was made for all additional expenses. But this happens not to be a fact. Your honorable body cannot be ignorant, that our home market for the produce of the soil, especially for cotton, is even now on the increase; that a large portion of our manufacturers claim no further protection, ask no additional duties; that the stockholders of one of the most considerable and flourishing manufactories in the United States, we mean that of Waltham in Massachusetts, at this time divide twelve per cent. on their capital; and that most others of any standing are known to be in a sufficiently flourishing condition to ask no aid from government. The question then is simply reduced to this. Shall we impose additional duties upon almost every article of foreign importation, either to gratify the sanguine expectations of those who wish to make trial of such manufactories as do not exist here at present, or to enable those who have failed, no matter from what cause, in manufacturing experiments already made in various parts of our country, to renew them at the expense of more than three-fourths of the nation? Relying, as we do, upon the wisdom and patriotism of our legislature, we cannot for a moment believe, that from the freest government upon earth we are to expect a system of policy so repugnant to every principle of reason and justice as would be that which your honourable body has been so importunately urged to adopt. And we confidently trust, that the men to whose intelligence and virtue the American people have entrusted the preservation of their dearest rights and interests, are as deeply impressed as any of their constituents themselves can possibly be, with the truth and importance of the following cardinal maxims in legislation.

That if the principles both of justice and policy forbid the majority of a nation to impose any tax on the minority alone, *a fortiori* they inhibit the imposition of any tax to be levied upon the former, for the sole benefit of the latter.

That where revenue is to be derived from imposts on foreign commodities, universal experience has demonstrated that moderate duties contribute much more than high ones towards the attainment of this object.

That where such duties are imposed to foster the particular interests of any class, who pay no part thereof, those duties must necessarily come out of the pockets of all the other classes in the community, and are in direct violation of that fundamental maxim, "not to tax the many for the benefit of the few."

That the practice of frequently changing those revenue laws which operate as taxes upon agriculture and commerce have a much more

pernicious effect upon both, but especially on the last, than permanent taxes of the highest kind compatible with the permanent existence of those two great sources of national wealth and power.

That for government, by legislation to add to those casualties and uncertainties which naturally affect the profits of labour, is to infringe the natural right which every man has to pursue any trade, profession, or calling that he pleases, and is to administer oppression instead of justice.

That by the exercise of such a power, governments may not only force individual capital into any channel which they please, but may either create or suppress ad libitum any particular class among the various ones, into which communities are usually divided.

That the reciprocal wants of agriculture, commerce and manufactures, with their relative capacities of supply, are sure guarantees of mutual good will and friendly offices, when left to exert their respective energies in their own way—but that the interference of governments with their private concerns rarely fails to produce a jarring of interests, and consequent hostility both of feelings and conduct.

That the natural diversities of soils and climates, and the artificial varieties of manners, habits, and customs are far better regulators of supply and demand than the wisest legislatures can possibly contrive.

That a due proportion of heat, moisture, and the pabulum of plants will not more certainly produce a vigorous and healthful growth in the vegetable kingdom, than will the natural inclination of mankind to improve their condition produce it in the political world, if left to exert itself entirely free from all legislative restraints but such as peace, order, justice, and good morals require.

And that it may be laid down as a maxim admitting of no exception,—*THAT NATIONAL INDUSTRY IS INVIGORATED BY FREE TRADE, AND DEPRESSED BY EVERY THING OPPOSED TO IT.*

All which is most respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM BAYARD,

Chairman.

JOHN VAUGHAN, Secretary.

Philadelphia, November 4, 1820.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

FIRING TOBACCO.

Has it been successfully accomplished by STOVE HEAT?

CAMBRIDGE, July 27th, 1821.

SIR.—In addition to the very useful communications on the culture and management of Tobacco, contained in the American Farmer, and which have been read with much satisfaction, if any of your correspondents would report their experience of the efficacy of curing Tobacco by stove heat, and the method of performing it, it would be highly appreciated, and more especially so, if as promptly as possible.

Respectfully, &c.

JOSEPH E. MUSE.

SALT,

Used as a Manure on CORN—Enquiry about RUTA BAGA sown in May.]

MR. SKINNER,

Perhaps no experiment in agriculture, however small, if it be but authentic, is wholly undeserving notice—should you be of that opinion, you may insert in the "Farmer," an account of one that I have made this spring upon salt. In eight rows of early Corn, of equal length, same soil, and manured alike, I put a small quantity (not exceeding a tea spoon full) in each hill with the seed and at the time of planting, in one row—in another row I put the same quantity on the surface of the hill, at the same time. The result therefore, has been, that in the row first mentioned, none of the Corn made its appearance till a full week after that which had no salt—not half of it has come at all, and what has come, is very much stunted—that upon which the salt was strewed on the surface came up and grew somewhat better, but both the salted rows are much inferior to those which had no salt. I cannot but attribute this defective growth to the salt. The ground was highly manured, both by ploughing in and afterward in the hill.

I am aware that single experiments are by no means, and perhaps in no case, conclusive.—The celebrated English farmer, Mr. Coke is, it seems, so sensible of the errors to which insufficient experiments may give rise, that he considers none complete till confirmed by many repetitions, under different circumstances and seasons—this is what I purpose, upon a small scale, with regard to salt, since its use has been so often and urgently recommended, and I wish others may yet, this season, for which there is full time, be stimulated to do the same for publication.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to enquire the result, which I think was promised your subscribers, of the experiment made last year of sowing Ruta Baga in May, by the president of our agricultural society. As no one is more zealous for the good of the society, or more willing to communicate his agricultural experiments, it is presumed no apology for this request will be necessary.

"A LEARNER."

Anne Arundel County 25th May, 1821.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Delivered by Thos. Pinckney, Jr. Esq. First President of the Pendleton Agricultural Society, So. Ca.

PENDLETON, June 12, 1817.

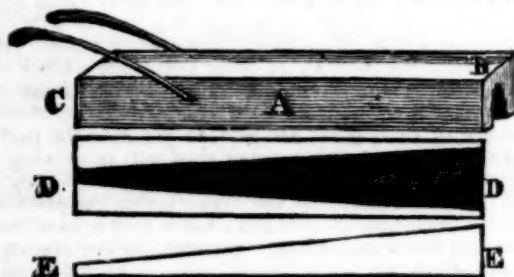
I offer you, my brother farmers, my best congratulations, on the return of this second anniversary of our Society, and I fervently hope that each succeeding year, may still find us in the path of public usefulness, and supported by the voice of public opinion. All reflecting men must applaud our motives, and I trust that the wisdom of our measures will equally merit their approbation.

It is a source of the most pure and heart-felt joy to me, that I am enabled to state to you, that we have already been useful. The first object to which the Society turned its attention, was the improvement of our wheat crops, and behold our fields are now loaded. I have been informed, that one third more wheat will be reaped this year, than was ever raised in this district. This is an inspiring fact, and should stimulate us to proceed with increased ardour, in our laudable career.

The term for which I have been elected, having expired, permit me, before I retire from the chair, as my last official act, to implore your attention to an object, without which, there can be no good farming; an object that will double our comforts, and quadruple the value of our lands; that will enable us to raise four fat oxen, where we now barely sustain one; and in short will raise us to the rank of real farmers, rioting in abundance, instead of being mere labourers, struggling for subsistence. This important object is meadow. And never, in my humble opinion, shall we truly prosper, until we admit hay fields, as a regular rotation among our grain crops. Sow clover seed on your wheat before the frost is over, strew plaster of Paris on your young clover, and the experience of all farming countries will tell you, you have the secret of abundance, and improvement with the least labour. Give the clover a fair and impartial trial—and should this trial prove that our sun is too hot for its successful cultivation, we have native grasses that may supply its place, affording a finer, and I believe a better hay, though not so rich as a pabulum for our soil. I forbear to trespass on your time at this moment, to detail all its various advantages, your own judgment and your books will convince you, that the introduction of clover and plaster, has formed a new era in agriculture, it has resuscitated whole districts. Would that my powers of persuasion were equal to my zeal on this subject, and that I had the talents to tempt or persuade you to depart from the beaten tract, even for one small experiment. I deem this object so all important to us, that I will not risk dividing your attention by mentioning another subject. I hope and persuade myself that the views of the Society, will encourage individual attempts to introduce grass fields as a regular rotation, and the last words of your first president are, "gentlemen, make hay."

THOS. PINCKNEY, Jr.

COTTON SEED COVERER. SCOTCH WINN.



Hermitage, near Wilmington, No. Ca. }
3d May, 1831. }

JOHN S. SKINNER, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—In planting my Cotton, I have used an implement for covering the seed that answers a better purpose than the hoe, inasmuch as it covers it more regularly, and not as deep, and saves the work of six or eight hands. With one small double fluke to open the trenches on the bed, four planters, and one hand to follow the "Cotton Coverer," to cover the ends of the beds, and remove any sods that may be left on the seed—I planted seventy acres in eight days. The "Cotton Coverer" is a piece of timber, A, about four feet long, twelve inches wide, B, and seven inches thick, C—the side D D intended to lay on the ground, is scooped, or hollowed out to the width of nine inches at the mouth, or part next the horse; gradually diminishing to three inches wide, at the other extremity—the cavity E E, is six inches deep at the fore end, and tapers down to one and a half inches behind—this "Coverer" is drawn by one horse on the top of the ridge, the hollow part of the timber being over the trench where the seed is planted, and wide at the mouth, collects the earth on both sides of the seed, and as it is drawn along, deposits the soil lightly over it, about three quarters of an inch thick. The "Coverer" has handles to it like a plough, and is guided with great facility. I have heard of one somewhat

similar to it in Wayne County, in this state, but am not aware of their being used or known generally among Cotton planters.

Can you procure me any information relative to the Fern, or Scotch Winn? Will it answer for hedges? and in what manner is it cultivated? I have some growing near five feet high! I think if well managed, it would make an impenetrable hedge.

In haste, but very respectfully,
Your's &c.

GEO. W. B. BURGWIN.

COTTON SEED

Sown Broad Cast, would furnish a good substitute for Clover, to improve old fields in Southern States.

FROM THE SOUTHERN PATRIOT,

"Inclosing for the sake of rearing vegetables to enrich the earth, is the mode by which the greatest quantity of atmospherical manure can be infused into it with the least labour." [Taylor's Arator.

Charleston, June 5th, 1821.

MR. EDITOR,

Whatever difference of opinion exists among agricultural writers, as respects the food of plants, it is agreed by all Farmers, that covering the surface of the earth from the injurious effects of the summer months, with some vegetable matter, and restoring to the same this substance previous to its cultivation, is one of the most beneficial modes of renewing its fertility. The author of Arator has so fully illustrated this branch of practical agriculture, that I am aware any observations I could offer would be deemed superfluous. In the Southern States, however, I much doubt if any of the kinds of clover can be advantageously employed in the mode so much extolled in the Northern States; and, from recent information, it appears, that strong fears are felt this may fail even there, from some deficiency in the clover, from causes not fully understood, which have induced their farmers to turn their attention to this subject. A writer from North Carolina, in the American Farmer, has recommended our common Cow Pea, to be sowed broad cast, and in the fall, after frost, to be ploughed in deep. This plan, in part, has been often practised with success, upon lands intended for Wheat in our state; and if I am correctly informed, was used with considerable advantage, to ensure a good crop of Oats, by one of our members of Congress, (WM. LOWMEYER, Esq.) upon his farm near Charleston, some years ago. I have some objection to the use of the Pea, not however, from any idea of its not answering, but from the disposition we planters have of taking from the earth every thing it yields us in the shape of grain—and the writer alluded to, fully bears me out in this conclusion. He recommends a certain portion of the Peas, to be gathered, and I fear if the land produced a good crop of Peas, they would all be picked off, and some of the stock upon the plantation would consume the best part of the vines. I must further conclude, that the vegetable employed should not be suffered to produce its fruit, or remain till frost, as either of these states would lessen its value when restored to the earth, unless the whole be ploughed in, which I much doubt would often be the case if the Pea crop was a good one. From the result of a few trials with Cotton Seed, I am induced to recommend this plant as a mode of restoring fertility to our lands when in fallow, to be used in the following manner. From the first to the middle of July, break up the field with a Shovel Plough, and then sow the same broad cast with Cotton Seed, which has been prepared in the same way as if for planting, at the rate of 5 bushels of seed per acre—after this, harrow in the seed, or if time permits, I much prefer ploughing in the seed with a small plough. If the land be intended for winter grain, about the middle of Sept. turn in the Cotton deep, with a Shovel Plough, and the first week in October, track off the land with a plough at from 18 inches to 2 feet, for the grain, so that the crop may have the great benefit of the hoe and plough during its growth. I have found October the best month for planting our winter grain, except Barley,

unless this be intended for a pasture. If the land be for Cotton or Corn, let one furrow be run at the distance the beds are intended to be, with a sharp and long Tracking Plough, and then have the field well listed to remain in that state till the planting season. This listing will be much expedited, if several furrows are run with a Shovel Plough, between each of those intended as the foundation of the beds. The many advantages which are connected with the cultivation of old lands, fully justify the farmer in making every exertion to restore and keep up their fertility. The situation of the fields in the harvest of the crop—the diminished quantity of labour in their preparation, and in the culture of the crop, together with a greater certainty of a crop over new lands, which require so much labour to prepare them, are well worth the serious consideration of the planter—and hence we so often find our old fields continued in cultivation, till totally exhausted. The usual opinion among planters has been, that it is easier to clear a new field than manure an old one. If this was even correct, in many of our first settled districts, all the best lands have been cleared, and the old fields must be abandoned, or their fertility restored.

When we consider the time necessary to prepare, in a proper manner, our new lands for cultivation, if the enclosing system was resorted to, and in the fall before frost, some vegetable substance was restored to the earth, our lands would continue to yield well for a much longer period, and our corn fields would be much benefited by listing in the stalks, grass, &c. to rot during the winter, instead of remaining till spring, which is the usual practice. Much benefit might be expected to follow, from strewing over our fields the trash and decayed vegetable matter from our wood lands; and instead of clearing new lands, let the same time be employed in conveying the top soil from our woods to our old fields, as has been alluded to by Dr. BLACK, of Delaware, in the American Farmer. Upon our sea shores the salt marsh and mud is successfully used by our planters. In urging the advantages of the use of the clover to aid the inclosing system, it is observed that "the tap root of the clover also advances the intention of the inclosing system in several respects. By piercing the earth to a considerable depth, apertures or pores are created for imbibing and sinking deeper a greater quantity of atmospherical manure, so well defended by the shade of the top, and the friability thus communicated to the soil, affords a most happy facility to the plough, for turning in its vast bed of vegetable matter." The Cotton Plant, while young and tender, and sowed as I have recommended, appears to have every claim to these great facilities for improving the soil; and I cannot conceive why a mass of young Cotton, from 8 to 16 inches high, should not, when well buried in the earth, produce the same beneficial effects to the soil as the Clover, which is so much approved of in England and our sister States. With reference to the idea of conveying the trash and top soil from our wood lands, being preferable to clearing new lands, I hope it will not be deemed too theoretical, since I presume the greatest objection to the plan must be its difficulty, and I must think that the same time and labour devoted to this business, that it requires to clear and prepare new lands, would insure better crops and a preservation of much timber, which is now a scarce article upon many of our old settled plantations.

Your paper of the 25th of April, contained an interesting article relative to Hemp. Being unacquainted with its mode of culture, and plan of saving its seed, a few directions upon these points are requested from this writer, especially as respects the distance the plants should be apart in rich land, the proper time for saving the seed, and also for cutting the Hemp.

A COTTON PLANTER.

ALDIE, (Loudon County, Va.) July 4, 1821.

Dear Sir—

UNDER the head of 'Virginia Husbandry,' in your last number of the "American Farmer," you ask for

information on the best method of constructing Lime Kilns. Although it is not in my power, to give you this information, yet I can direct you where it may be obtained. Peter Lossing, of Buckman Town, Dutchess county, New-York, obtained a patent *more than fourteen years ago*, from the United States, for an improvement in the mode of burning lime.

I opened a correspondence with Mr. Lossing, some years ago, on the subject of his patent, and obtained from him the following facts, viz: That a kiln containing 1600 bushels, may be burnt in forty-eight hours, whereas in the old mode at least, double that time is required—that the saving of wood was in the proportion of one half—that the hands employed about the kiln were exposed but to little heat, and that the cost of construction was little more than the old method.

Dr. Thornton, who is at the head of the Patent Office, will, with pleasure, furnish you with the specification or description of the kiln, together with a drawing in perspective, which always accompanies the specification. I have no doubt you will render an essential service to the country, by giving it a place in your useful paper. While on this subject, I beg leave to suggest to you, the propriety of publishing a list of all the patents obtained from the United States, since the establishment of the patent office. Such a list has been published in the Emporium of Arts; but as this valuable book is only in the hands of few, the public receive but little benefit from it. Your paper has a great circulation, and the publication of such a list, might have the tendency of bringing into general use, some machine, art, discovery, or invention, which is now confined to particular neighbourhoods.

With great respect,
Your's &c.

WM. NOLAND.

REMARKS ON HEDGES, BENE PLANT AND PISE BUILDINGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

Bremo, near New Canton, Buckingham Co. Virginia, June 4, 1821.

DEAR SIR—I have received your's of the 4th and 18th May, together with the parcels of seed they contained, for which I return you my thanks.

An absence of six weeks is the cause that your letters did not reach me until my arrival at home on Saturday last, or be assured, Sir, they would have met with a more prompt acknowledgment.

All the seeds have been committed to the earth.—The prospect you have given me of getting into a stock of the Cherokee Rose, is doing me a great favour. I had learned through the American Farmer, the supposed value of this plant for hedging, and had been devising the means of obtaining it, with the hope, that it will be found to supply a want in American Husbandry, which has already grown to a serious evil, and increasing every year.

From the character you give the Delaware corn, I have no doubt it will prove a valuable addition to our other varieties.

I do not anticipate much from the Bene, as I made an experiment with it in this climate and soil some years ago, and found it brought too small a proportion of its seeds to perfection, to make it a profitable article of culture here. I think it highly probable, it would succeed upon the warmer and more sandy soils of the tide water and maritime districts of Virginia and Maryland—where too, it would find the advantage of an earlier spring and later autumn.—But as this plant, doubtless like most others, will by degrees become naturalized to a severe climate, I thank you for putting it in my power, to renew the experiment. I have placed it in an artificial sandy soil of good exposure, in my garden, and should this second effort, be attended with any results worth communicating I shall not fail to make them known to you.

I take pleasure in answering your inquiries as to my experience in Pisé building. About this time five years ago, I erected two small buildings of this kind 14 by 16 feet and 8 feet pitch each, which have stood perfectly, affording the warmest shelter in winter and the coolest in summer of any buildings of their size, I ever knew. In the execution of these buildings, both as to materials, tools and apparatus, I followed the directions contained in the book of S. W. Johnson, of New Jersey, entitled Rural Economy, and are essentially the same as those lately published in the American Farmer, from the Report of Henry Holland, to the Board of Agriculture.—From the fairest estimate I could make of the cost of this mode of building, compared with brick walls, (which cost higher here than with you, on account of the greater expense at which lime is obtained) it was, to the best of my recollection, one half less. With earth of the proper kind, faithfully rammed, in the order recommended (for I found the proper degree of moisture to be all important), I have no hesitation in saying, I consider it the cheapest and best of all the permanent modes of building, of which I have any knowledge—and nothing has prevented my executing all my out houses, such as quarters, and for the other purposes of rural economy in this mode of building; but that my affairs would not admit of withdrawing as much of my attention from them, as would be necessary to give my personal superintendence to insure the faithful execution of the work with common labourers.

A third experiment which I made in Pisé, is more decisive of its value than those already mentioned.—In the following summer after the two buildings already mentioned were erected, I commenced the third, under the management of an agent, who although inexperienced in the business, was intelligent, and I thought might be trusted with the execution of the work, aided by occasional visits from myself. I soon found the work was not as faithfully done as I desired to have it; and when the walls were raised to about two thirds of their intended height, I became so dissatisfied with the workmanship, that I determined to proceed no farther with it, until I found it convenient to superintend the execution myself.—The walls were covered with a hatching of straw which afforded but imperfect shelter the first and second winters, since which they were almost entirely exposed, giving myself no concern about them, having made up my mind, that whenever I resumed the intention of finishing the house, the work would be removed as useless rubbish. This spring it became necessary for me to go on with my original design, and upon examination, I found those exposed Pisé walls in such a state of strength and preservation, as, by taking off six or eight inches of the upper surface which had been penetrated by the frost, to bear a superstructure of a thirteen inch brick wall, between three and four feet in height to complete the story. The roof was immediately put on, and I have observed not the slightest appearance of failure in the walls.

In the course of these experiments, I satisfied myself, it would be an improvement in this mode of building, to change the plan of forming the Pisé walls upon the foundations of the building, by means of the moveable frame work and side planks—to which I found the following objections in practice:—Without a greater degree of accuracy in the making of all the parts of the frame, than common workmen are adequate to, the mismatching the parts of the frame in removing, produces much loss of time in getting each piece to its right place. I found it, also, difficult to maintain the frames in a perfectly perpendicular position—and above all, you cannot detect the deficiency in the work until it has proceeded so far as to render it inconvenient to remedy. To guard against these objections, as well as to secure other advantages which I think are manifest, I have resolved to execute my future Pisé walls in separate and distinct blocks—formed in frames, made of 2, or 3 inch plank stuff of less thickness, would yield to the pressure necessary to form perfect Pisé. The width of these frames must of course be regulated by the thickness

of your walls. For small single story buildings, I think 12 or 13 inches enough—and to keep each block within a size and weight convenient for building, I have fixed the other dimensions of my frame, at 18 inches in length—and of a depth sufficient to have something to spare when it contains a block 8 inches thick. It is necessary to have greater depth of frame than thickness of block required, in order to hold the necessary quantity of earth in its loose, unpacked state. To defend the edges of the frame against the indirect stroke of the pisoirs, they should be covered with an iron plate, made to adapt itself to a slight beveling of the inner edge, for the obvious purpose of directing to its proper place, any small deviation of the stroke. These frames are put together by two strong tenons at each end of the transverse pieces which pass through the mortices made to receive them in the longitudinal sides of the frame—taking care to leave a sufficiency of timber both in the tenons, to sustain a pin, which must pass through them to keep the sides together, and beyond the mortices in the longitudinal or side pieces, to prevent the ends or transverse pieces from being forced out by the powerful pressure they have to resist. For each of these frames there must be an even surface of cut stone, to which it is attached by two iron cramps, taking hold of the stone below, and the upper edge of the frame.—Thus prepared, with half a dozen of these frames, under a shed, which will be necessary to shelter the blocks when made;—with suitable earth previously dug, the making of Pisé, may be an in-door job for rainy days and hours of leisure.—Two hands to each frame are as many as can operate to advantage. The work will be better executed in this mode, because neglect will be more easily detected; and with a stock of Pisé blocks on hand, it will be an undertaking of no more time or difficulty, to erect a Pisé building, than to put up a log house. In laying the blocks in the wall, I would recommend a thin joint of lime mortar, although I think well wrought clay would answer. In order to turn out the blocks from the frames, to which they adhere with great tenacity, the tiles upon which the frames are laid should be as light as is consistent with affording a base of sufficient firmness to sustain the strokes of the pisoirs; in order that when a block is completed, the whole apparatus with the mass it contains, may be turned upon its sides for the convenience of driving out the pins, to separate the parts of the frame. A thin layer of dust will be necessary on the surface of the stone, and as much as will adhere to the inner surface of the frame before the earth is put in for ramming. I formed a bar of inch square iron about 3 feet 6 inches long; rounded, for the convenience of holding, ten or twelve inches at its upper end; and having a tap two inches square upon the lower end, a better pisoir or beater than those made of wood according to the directions given in the books.

If any combination of the mechanical powers can be devised at a reasonable expense, by which Pisé blocks of the size above mentioned, or larger, can be formed by a rapid operation, I am persuaded, it would be the greatest discovery ever made in the art of building. I have been flattering myself that the machine for making bricks by compression, said to be in operation some time ago in Baltimore, or its vicinity, might turn out, if not in its present form, under such modifications as some fortunate mechanical genius may give to it, to be this great desideratum in Pisé operations.—Some notice in the Farmer of this machine, I am sure would prove highly acceptable to many of your readers.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's respectfully,

JOHN W. COCKE.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

The best time to cut Timber.

SIR,

THE scarcity of forest trees, in many parts of our state, is such as to demand the

most rigid economy in the use of them, either in building, fencing, or fire wood.—This fact must be familiar to every man who has had an opportunity of observing that there is a great difference in the durability of the same kind of wood cut at different times. This difference, it is believed by some ancient and observing men, is occasioned by cutting down at favorable or unfavorable seasons—the months of February and August are said to be preferable to all others for felling timber—where durability is desirable. Be this as it may, I have good authority for believing, that rails can be shewn which have lasted more than half a century, while others, of the same kind of wood, and on the same farm, have decayed in less than a dozen years. Should this astonishing difference be the effect of so simple a cause as the time of felling the trees, which is confidently believed, we ought surely to pay sufficient attention to the subject, to enable us to form a right conclusion. Experiments are requested to be made, and the results to be communicated.

A Farmer.

Note by the Editor—The importance of this subject, as an object of rural economy, is obvious—but it is one which has been very partially investigated. Judging from an able report which was made to Congress last winter, by the Board of Navy Commissioners, on the preservation of ship timber, and believing it to be their practice to have timber felled only in the winter, we conclude that the subject has undergone their particular consideration. All the papers from the Navy Board, which have met the public eye, have manifested an active spirit of philosophical research, which gives us confidence in the soundness of their conclusions, and if, in this case, we can borrow, as we will endeavour to do, the aid of *their lights*, we doubt not they will conduct us to the very desirable information which our respected correspondent seeks to obtain on the *proper season for felling timber, with a view to its durability, under the exposures incident to farming uses.*

BURLINGTON HAMS.—*Method of Curing.*

BURLINGTON, Feb. 3d, 1821.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE endeavored to obtain the information you requested respecting the mode of curing the hams which excited the enquiries of your Charleston friends, without succeeding to the extent of my wishes. The person who probably sent the hams to Charleston is an extensive dealer in both pork and hams, and a respectable store-keeper in this place. Considering the process as a valuable secret of his business, and having repeatedly declined a disclosure of his practice, he is averse to offend those who have been refused the information which you are desirous of obtaining; nor is he willing that his practice should be known to others, who might avail themselves of it to his injury—these are probably the reasons for his reserve on the subject.

As Burlington has been somewhat celebrated for the character of its hams, and as they are to be found of a good quality in most of our respectable families, and in some few instances, equal to any I have elsewhere seen, the best mode of curing them is claimed as the practice of several intelligent individuals of my acquaintance. The following receipt is,

I believe, one which has been sanctioned by the approbation of the best tastes among us, it has been used in my own family, and has been approved by the best judges among the genteel strangers who have visited us.

To 12 hams of common size, take 8 pounds of brown sugar, 1½ of well chrystallized salt-petre, and 5 of fine salt—Rub the hams with this mixture, and let them be one week in a cask with the skins downward—then make a pickle of the strongest coarse salt, of sufficient strength to bear an egg; add about 2 or 3 quarts of lie from hickory ashes, refined by boiling, and scumming—when cold, cover the hams with it, and keep them down by a weight; let them lie three or four weeks, according to their size, then hang them up in the smoke-house; after 24 hours, commence smoking them with sound hickory wood, and repeat this every morning until sufficiently smoked.

There is some difference in the subsequent practice of the best managers. Those prepared by the dealer first mentioned, have been wrapped in the finest, driest, and sweetest clover hay, and then tightly sewed up in strong canvas bags—they are then kept hanging up in the smoke-house, or packed for shipping: this mode is not always successful in preserving them from the fly. Burying them in very dry hickory ashes, and packing them in boxes kept in the smoke-house, and occasionally changed, and dried through the summer, has been found, in my practice, the most effectual mode of preserving them. When wanted for use they should be put in water the preceding evening, to dissolve the ashes adhering to them. If dipped in ashes when first taken from the pickle, it forms a coat which is useful in preserving them from the fly.

There is a great variety in the minute details of even good managers—but the use of sugar and salt-petre are the material points, common to them all. In my opinion, a great deal depends on the nature of the flesh of the several breeds of hogs. There is, in our country, a prevailing attachment to large animals: I have, like my neighbours, been deluded by this false taste. After a fair trial of the large breed of hogs, I have abandoned them as coarse in flesh, and deficient in flavor, and at the same time unprofitable in keeping; requiring to be kept long with a larger portion of food, according to their size. I have now two distinct breeds of hogs, one of the English White Suffolk breed, from the imported boar, represented in the Philadelphia Agricultural Almanack of 1820, the other, Cobbett's Black Hampshire breed—these I am crossing with the Spanish Black, of which I have now a fine boar in my possession, imported by my friend Joseph Elus Bloomfield, esq. from Cadiz—of the same breed with the Spanish hogs imported by Commodore Chauncey, at New-York, in the same vessel, and mentioned by Cobbett, as introduced into England by William Gauntlett, late a commissary in Spain, and superior to his Hampshire breed—These are kinds which I am keeping distinct, and likewise by crossing, will, I believe, enable me to secure the best breeds in our country or in Europe.

In an interesting communication from Mr.

John Leeky, an eminent dealer in pork and bacon, in Cork, he recommends the Suffolk breed to his fellow citizens—and also the Hampshire breed, as far superior in flavor or profit to the large pork, of the English Berkshire breed, shipped from Waterford, which he does not think worthy of encouragement.—See No. 5, 6, 7, of the Cork or Munster Magazine, No. XX. 1817.

WM. COXE.

Rowan Agricultural Society, NORTH CAROLINA.

Pursuant to notification, a number of respectable planters of the county met in Salisbury on the 4th of July, and formed and adopted a constitution for the Rowan Agricultural Society—the following gentlemen were then elected officers for the ensuing year:

Charles Fisher, President,
S. L. Ferrand and Robert Moor, Vice-Presidents.
John Beard, jr. Secretary.
Michael Brown, Treasurer.
James Martin, Alfred Macay, and Thomas Chambers, Committee of Correspondence.

The Society for the purpose of obtaining information on agricultural subjects, and to show the respect they think due to all patrons of this first of arts, elected John Taylor, of Va. Dr. Walker, of Warren, D. Cameron, of Orange, G. W. Jeffreys, of Caswell, and his excellency J. Franklin, Honorary Members of the Society.

From the patronage that is expected, they are in hopes of being prepared to give such encouragement to the scientific and practical agriculturist, as becomes the large, wealthy, and liberal county of Rowan. For the purpose of commencing, the Society voted the following prizes, all, with the exception of the first, to be awarded at the Agricultural Show, which will take place on the first Thursday in the month of October next, in the town of Salisbury, viz:

1st. A premium of \$25, or two silver goblets, valued at that sum, for the neatest and best live fence or hedge, within the county of Rowan, to be inspected by a committee of the Society, in the month of November, 1824; at which time a particular account in writing, of the mode of cultivation, must be furnished to the Society.

2d. A premium of a silver Cup, valued at \$10, for the best Colt or Filly, of the last spring's foaling; pedigree to be furnished by the owner at the time of showing.

3d. A premium of \$5, for the best Cow Calf, and the like sum for the best Bull Calf, of the last spring's production.

4th. A premium of \$5, for the best two horse Plough, and the same for the best one horse Plough, both to be manufactured in the state. Honorary premiums will also be given for the best Models of other Farming Implements.

5th. A silver Cup, worth \$10, for the most approved practical Essay on the subject of manures, particularly vegetable and atmospheric.

6th. A like premium for the most approved practical Essay on the raising and management of all kinds of live Stock, in which the errors and defects of the present practices must be plainly pointed out, and a better plan recommended. These Essays must be delivered to the President of the Society by the 20th of September.

7th. For the encouragement of household manufactures, that useful branch of domestic economy, a premium of \$10, will be awarded for the finest and best piece of Homespun Cloth, (not less than ten yards,) made either of wool and cotton mixed, or wool alone. Honorary premiums will also be given for superior specimens of other kinds of home manufactured cloths.

8th. For the encouragement of that part of our rural economy pertaining to the dairy, a premium of one half dozen of elegant silver Spoons, will be given

to the person producing the best specimen of Cheese; in two cakes, not less than 10 lbs. each, and to be made during the present summer.

The cause of Agriculture and Domestic Economy, will be promoted by a general attendance of the farmers of the county, on this interesting occasion; and all persons are invited freely to come forward and compete for the prizes. Even those not disposed to enter the list, will aid the cause of improvement, by bringing superior specimens of any thing they may have, either in the agricultural or manufacturing line; as also models of ploughs, barrows, and various other farming tools.

Every necessary arrangement and preparation for the convenience of the Show will, before the day arrives, be made. Pens will be prepared for the different kinds of live stock, and a house for the display of the other articles that may be brought, whether for inspection or sale.

All such shows, from their nature, partake of the character of a Fair. Without doubt, many of the articles brought forward on that day, may be sold on better terms than on any less public occasion. It will be a place, where persons wishing to sell, and those wishing to buy, may be mutually accommodated.—Many exchanges may also take place, thus accommodating both sides without the aid of that scarce article, money.

A person will be employed, at the expense of the Society, for the purpose of auctioneering any article that the owner may wish to dispose of in that way.

It is thought proper to make these statements at this time, lest some persons might be deterred from bringing specimens of stock and other products to the Show, by the fear that there would be no way of keeping them in safety when here; and in consequence of this apprehension, be prevented from paying that attention to improvement during the summer, which it is the object of the Society to excite.

After the business of the Society was performed, the President delivered an address, which was ordered to be published with the proceedings of the Society.

[*Carolinian.*]

[From the *Hartford (Conn.) Mirror.*]

American Grass Bonnets.

It is with no ordinary degree of pride, as well as pleasure, that we have recently learned, that the British Society of Arts in London, have awarded to Miss Sophia Woodhouse, of Wethersfield, in this state, a premium of twenty guineas, (equal to \$93.33.) together with a silver medal of the Society, for the elegant specimen of grass bonnet made by her, and exhibited in this city, at the Cattle Show, and Exhibition of domestic manufactures, in October last. This award was made on conditions to be hereafter complied with by Miss W.; but the object of them is to introduce into Great Britain the cultivation of that species of grass of which the bonnet is made, with the view of its becoming hereafter an important article of manufacture in that kingdom. When we advert to the fact, that the British Society of Arts was instituted for the purpose of encouraging their own industry and ingenuity, and that in no instance, it is believed, until the present, they have transcended the limits, to which they have hitherto confined themselves, of dispensing their honors and rewards to their native inhabitants only; we shall be disposed the better to estimate their liberality in thus overstepping the bounds of national distinction, and their patriotism in endeavouring to profit by the enterprise and ingenuity of others, in order to add to the wealth of their own country, by extending the sphere of its industry.

But, while thus acknowledging the liberality and public spirit of others, we ought not to be unmindful of what we owe to ourselves. To Miss Woodhouse and her sister is due, in the first place, the praise of having discovered a material equal in strength and surpassing in fineness the straw of the wheat from whence the far famed Leghorn hats are made, and the merit of converting this material, heretofore of comparatively no value, into an article of dress, which is now almost universally used in the Atlantic states, and for the purchase of which millions of dollars have heretofore been sent out of the country to reward the industry of Italian females. This laudable example has only to be followed to the extent of which it is entirely in our power to carry it, to become of great importance to our country at large. Our agricultural societies, by their zeal and well directed efforts, have done much towards stimulating the industry, and increasing the intelligence of our agriculturists, and in developing the resources of our country. But their efforts to be extensively useful, and fully successful, must be seconded by the zeal, liberality, and good sense of our own people. It will be in vain, that a few attempt to lead, if the multitude refuse to follow. It is only by the general infusion, into the minds of the great body of our fellow citizens, of a common spirit of industry, enterprise, and liberal exertion, that any thing great can be accomplished. Extensive good can be achieved only by united efforts.

These remarks are made chiefly with the view of directing the attention of the people of this state, to a branch of manufactures, which, if extensively pursued, would be attended with an ample reward to the industry of the individuals who should undertake it, as well as great advantages to the state at large. Few states can boast of a better population than the state of Connecticut,—industrious, frugal, and contriving. Our young women are marked also by a character of good sense, prudence, industry, and ingenuity. Very many there are, who, like Miss Sophia Woodhouse, could undertake this manufacture with advantage, and carry it to an extent to which, it may be apprehended, that lady may now be prohibited from extending it.* Nor would an ample remuneration of their industry be wanting. It is a fact, which has recently been ascertained by actual calculation, that the sums, which have been paid by the different dealers in this city for the purchase of Leghorn hats, since the commencement of the present year, will amount to forty thousand dollars. What if the whole of this sum had been paid to the young women in the town of Wethersfield!—Instead of pointing to their church, as the only and respectable monument of female liberality and industry, in a few years it might be their boast that the whole

* It may be proper to inform our readers who reside at a distance, that the elder Miss W. to whom chiefly our remarks are applicable, and who is one of three sisters who have engaged in the manufacture of grass bonnets, has recently been married, and is now Mrs. Wells. The maiden name is however retained in this communication, as being the only one by which, in reference to the subject of this article, she is known to the public.

town had been rebuilt and embellished from the effects of the industry and ingenuity of its young ladies.

As some misapprehensions have gone forth to the public concerning the grass bonnets, manufactured at Wethersfield, and exhibited at the Cattle Show and Exhibition of domestic manufactures in this city last October, the writer of this will close his present remarks with a brief statement of facts concerning those bonnets. The one, which obtained the first premium from the Society, was made by Miss Sophia Woodhouse. That, which obtained the second premium, was made by Miss Mary Woodhouse. The first was purchased by Mr. Lorenzo Bull of this city, who gave Miss S. W. the choice, of her own price for the bonnet, or of sending it, free of any expense, to be sold for her account in London. It was purchased, and sent to London to Mr. Marcus Bull, now residing there, and whose situation, being engaged in the great engraving concern of Messrs. Fairman, Perkins & Co. in their negotiation with the Bank of England; gave him access to many of the ingenious men and artists of that city.

It was exhibited at Sir Joseph Banks's during the life of that distinguished man. A member of the Society of Arts requested to be permitted to offer it to the Society for a premium, and become the channel through which the discovery should be communicated to the British public. This was assented to by Mr. M. B., from the liberal desire of extending the benefits of the discovery to that nation which was about to patronize the undertaking he was engaged in, as well as from a laudable wish to confer an honor upon Miss Woodhouse, and do credit to the ingenuity of his native state. The result was, as has been before stated. The British Society of Arts voted to Miss W. a premium, and their silver medal on certain conditions; the evident object of which is to obtain a full knowledge of the material from which the bonnet is made; its mode of cultivation, and mode of preparation for manufacture; and thus to engrain on their own industry the skill and invention of others. A letter from Mr. M. B. of the 12th May last, states that the bonnet had been extensively shown in London, and admired—that this single specimen, he had no doubt, might be sold for twenty guineas,—and that he had been able to find but one bonnet made of the Leghorn straw which would compare with the American grass in fineness, but was deemed inferior in hue and complexion, and this was of 62 rows, and was stated to have cost 18 guineas.

The second bonnet referred to before, made by Miss Mary Woodhouse, was purchased by a gentleman in this city for \$25, was sent to New York, exhibited there, sold at auction at the Tontine Coffee House for \$39, and presented to Mrs. John Quincy Adams, by whom, it is believed, it is still worn.

The Leghorn wheat straw, prepared for manufacturing, has been, and can be, imported into Great Britain for 3s. 6d. sterling the pound. But from the facts, that a very small proportion of it is as fine as the grass in the Wethersfield bonnet, and that the coarser straw is found to

be of but little value when manufactured, and not saleable, the attempt to manufacture it in that country has been laid aside. The American grass, therefore, if fine, might be made to supplant the Italian straw in the British market, and might, when prepared for manufacturing, become an article of export.

From the foregoing facts two conclusions may be deduced. First, that the British, who are remarkable for a jealous attention to their now manufacturing and commercial interests, deem it for their advantage to become possessed of our grass for manufacture in preference to the Italian wheat straw, which they already have in manufacture, and can have in the raw material. And second, if it be their interest, it is equally our interest, in this particular, to improve our own resources, to foster and reward our own native industry and ingenuity, and extend the sphere of their usefulness; rather than, from an injurious and senseless preference of foreign gewgaws and foreign manufactures, to overlook a material which grows with spontaneous profusion at our own doors, and under our own feet, in favor of another which is admitted to be inferior by critical judges, and which seems to have no merit exclusively its own but that it is brought from a far country.

*A Member of the Hartford County?
Agricultural Society.*

ON FENCES,

By JAMES WORTH—read before the Agricultural Society of Bucks' County, Pennsylvania, Nov. 1820, and ordered to be published in the 'National Recorder.'

SHARON, November 10, 1820.

Dear Sir,

Agreeably to an intimation, which I made to the Society on a former occasion, I will now offer some observations on the subject of Fences. It is in vain for the farmer to sow and till his crops, unless he protects them by a good fence; but it has really become an article so expensive, and, in some instances, so difficult to obtain, that much damage has been sustained; and, as the evil must continue to increase, until a proper remedy is applied, it behoves us, without delay, to take the matter in hand, and consider it in all its bearings.

There seems to be such a perpetuity in all things relating to Agriculture, that a farmer should calculate on an improvement to the end of time—an improvement not be unwise in him to commence a work, which can only be completed in his latest posterity.

Now although a fence cannot last forever, yet we shall I presume need fences, as long as agriculture is practised, and therefore I wish to call the attention of the members of our society, as well as others, to some permanent provision. I do not flatter myself that I shall adduce a plan that will be wholly relied on, but I offer it as one of my own, and as the best I have to give. I challenge the production of a better, and assure you it will afford me great pleasure to see it out done.

Before I enter upon my ground, I will take a brief view of the several kinds of fences which have come to my knowledge. The worm fence is generally made in new countries where timber is plenty; but as timber fails, the post and rail, and other kinds are resorted to, it will be unnecessary to take the former into calculation, as it is not applicable to this neighbourhood. I then estimate that three rails of chestnut or cedar, and post of white oak or chestnut, with ditch, will cost from 60 to 67 cents per panel; four ditto, ditto, with bank, about 67 cents; five ditto, ditto, 75 cents; five ditto, ditto, with lime and sand posts, from 87 to 100

cents; wire fence, with wood posts, about 100 cents; stone do. where stone is plenty, from 100 to 125 cents; live fences or hedges, with protecting fences, about 75 cents. Bank or sod fences have not sufficient data to calculate cost, or utility.

Messrs. White & Hazard, the inventors of the wire fence, calculated, that by substituting live posts, that is, by planting trees of proper kinds, at suitable distances, an immense profit would be produced, which they considered as yielded by the fence, when, in fact, it was solely applicable to the soil—because in the exact proportion as those trees produced, would the borders of the field be exhausted—and, by sowing the seeds too near them, an additional wastage would take place; thus it is with hedges—they seem to be cheap in the first instance, but the exhaustion of the soil alone would, in my opinion, render them a very dear gift; nor do I believe they will be found so durable, as has been imagined—for I am told, that a grub has already attacked one species of the thorn; and I have often seen sassafras, cherry, and other trees, with abundance of grass growing along the hedge rows, which will most assuredly bring on a decline, in the course of a few years; besides, I have never seen a hedge that was proof against hogs. I admit that they might be kept in better order, but it will be expensive, and require more attention than our farmers are willing to bestow. Upon the whole, I am surprised that this species of fencing should have been introduced amongst us in the present state of our country, and can only attribute it to the prejudice of foreigners, who have been accustomed to it from necessity. With respect to lime and sand posts, I believe a patent has been obtained for making them. Small stones are generally mixed with the lime and sand—they look neat, and appear substantial, and will probably answer a good purpose where the materials are cheap; but can only be put up in dry weather—and it will be necessary to dig a foundation to guard against frosts.

Where stone is plenty, that kind of fence could be made to advantage, especially along waters and banks; but for general purposes, the post and rail is to be preferred to all others—three or four rails in height will do very well along woods where it is necessary to have a ditch to cut off the roots of the trees, to prevent their effects upon the adjacent fields, or in any situation where a ditch is wanted; four rails, with a rank thrown up about a foot high, is sufficient for most purposes; but it requires continual care to keep up the bank, and it occupies too much ground, nor can the borders of the field be kept entirely clean: this is the kind that I made choice of, in improving my farm—but I am now convinced of my error, and decidedly prefer the fine rail, because it occupies less ground than any other and is more easily kept clean.

Having determined in favour of the post with fine rails, for general purposes, I turn my attention to that particular kind, and will proceed to provide for its future supply, in the following manner to wit: plant an acre of ground with chestnut and locust seeds, five sixths of it with chestnut for rails, and one-sixth with locust for posts.—I calculate that four trees will grow on a perch, making six hundred and forty on the acre—I suppose that forty of them will fail, leaving six hundred trees; that each tree will produce in thirty years, and every twenty or twenty-five years afterwards, twenty rails or posts, which will yield at each cutting, twelve thousand posts and rails, or two thousand pannells—then say that the acre of land is worth eighty dollars, it will reduce the materials to four cents per panel, which, with making and putting up, will not exceed twenty five cents, and in point of durability, I am persuaded that it will be exceeded by none, except the stone, and it will have an advantage over it, by being moveable when necessary—but it may be said that my calculations are extravagant; reduce the product if you please, to one half, and you only add four cents per panel to the fence. Now, I ask, can any cheaper or better plan be devised? If there can, I hope it will be produced; for my object is to advance the interests of Agriculture—and, if ever the exposure of errors should be the means of exciting others to engage in the good work, my purpose

will, in a great degree, be accomplished. I submit the above observations to the consideration of the Society—and am respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

JAMES WORTH.

THOMAS G. KENNEDY, ESQ.

Secretary Ag. So. of Bucks' County.

To save Cucumbers from Bugs.

Set out an onion, or set up an onion stalk, in each hill of cucumbers, and the streaked bug will keep away.

To destroy the Canker Worm.

Mow sweet elder, as it is called, or common elder, and place the same on the branches of the trees infested with them, and they will immediately leave the branches.

Dysentery.

A decoction of the roots of blackberry bushes is a safe, sure and speedy cure for the dysentery.

Shearing of Sheep.

The following method has been found effectual. Immediately after the sheep are shorn, soak the roots of the wool that remains all over with oil or butter and brimstone; and three or four days afterwards, wash them with salt and water, and the wool of the next season will not only be much softer and finer, but the quality will be greatly enlarged; and the sheep will neither be troubled with the scab or vermin that year.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1821.

PRICES CURRENT.

Flour from the wagons, \$5 a 5 1/2—Whiskey from do. 25 cents—Wheat, \$1 a 1 05—Corn, 37 a 42 cts.—Rye, 40 a 41—Oats 30—Live Cattle, \$5 a 6—Cod fish, per quintal, wholesale, \$3, retail 3 50 a \$4—N. E. Beans per bushel \$1 12 1/2—ditto Peas, 75 cents—Plaster in stone \$6 per ton—do, ground, \$1 35 per barrel, 33 cts. per bushel, \$8 per ton—New-Orleans sugar, \$9 to \$12 50—Muscovado, do. \$9 a \$12—American White Lead, \$12 50—Ground do. 13 a 14—Linseed Oil, 75 cents—Feathers, 40 a 45 cents—Shad, new, \$6—Herrings, \$2 a \$2 25, declining—Fine Salt, 55 cents per bushel—Ground Alum do 55 a 60—St Ubes, 60—Cadiz, 50 a 55—Turk's Island, 75—Beef, 8 to 10 cts. Hams, 10 a 12 cents—Middlings, 12 cents—Butter, 25 cents—Peas 50 cents per bushel—Eggs, 12 1/2 cents—Cheese 8 a 10 cents per pound—Tar \$2 12 1/2—Turpentine, new dipt, 2 12 1/2—Hard, 1 30 to 1 63 1/2—Pitch 2 a 2 25, nominal—Rosin, common, \$1 57 1/2—Varnish, 25 cents—Spirits Turpentine, 33 cents per gallon.

Virginia Tobacco—A few hogsheads Virginia Tobacco of inferior quality at \$6 a 6 50—2 hds. do. at 6 50 a 8.

Maryland Tobacco—same as last week—Fine ditto, scarce, but much in demand.

Printed every Friday at \$4 per annum, for JOHN S. SKINNER, Editor, by Joseph Robinson, at the N. W. corner of Market and Belvidere streets, Baltimore, where every description of Book and Job Printing is executed.—Orders from a distance for Printing and Binding, with proper directions, promptly attended to.